

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01

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R 091421Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5442

INFO /AMEMBASSY BERLIN 1079

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, HU, CZ, US

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN PRESS JOINS COMMON LINE ON RFE

REF: BUDAPEST 0587

1. HUNGARIAN PRESS HAS BELATEDLY JOINED EE CHORUS IN ATTACKING RFE BROADCASTING AS VIOLATION OF HELSINKI PRINCIPLES. HARD-HITTING ARTICLE APPEARED IN MARCH 7 MAGYAR HIRLAP USING "INFORMATION" GLEANED FROM PAVEL MINARIK CASE.

2. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT 80 PERCENT OF RFE EMPLOYEES WORK FOR CIA; THAT ANTI-COMMUNIST ARTICLES ARE PLANTED IN WESTERN NEWSPAPERS AND THEN LATER CITED AS INFORMATION SOURCES FOR RADIO BROADCASTS. THESE ARTICLES ARE SUPPOSEDLY WRITTEN BY CZECH EMIGREES WHO, ACCORDING TO MINARIK, ARE PAID OUT OF RFE/CIA FUNDS. MAGYAR HIRLAP CLAIMS THAT RFE'S

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"PRINCIPAL TARGET IS SOCIALIST CZECHOSLOVAKIA".

3. BIB CHAIRMAN DAVID ABSHIRE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT RFE COMMUNICATES REGULARLY WITH U.S. AMBASSADORS IN EE AND CONSIDERS THEIR VIEWS WHEN BROADCASTING ABOUT "DELICATE PROBLEMS". ARTICLE GOES ON TO IMPLY THAT BECAUSE OF DISTORTED INTELLIGENCE SUPPLIED TO RFE BY U.S. EMBASSIES IN EE, RFE'S VIEWS OF EE COUNTRIES DO NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY.

4. MAGYAR HIRLAP CONCLUDES THAT ACTIVITY OF RFE AND RL "CRUDELY VIOLATE PRINCIPLES OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT WHICH WAS RECOGNIZED AS OBLIGATORY BY 35 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S. AND FRG; THAT FINAL ACT PROHIBITS SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE CARRIED OUT BY MUNICH STATIONS DIRECTED AND FINANCED BY U.S. OFFICIAL CIRCLES". ARTICLE THEN QUOTES "SOCIALIST NEWSMEN" AS SAYING "IT IS HIGH TIME TO REMOVE MUNICH STATIONS, ESTABLISHED DURING COLD WAR, FROM CONTINENT".

5. COMMENT: HUNGARIAN PROPAGANDA AGAINST RFE AND RL UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN NEGLIGIBLE. THIS IS PRIMARILY DUE TO RELAXED ATTITUDE ON PART OF HUNGARIAN LEADERSHIP WHICH CONTINUES TO VIEW BROADCASTS AS ONLY MINOR IRRITANTS. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT ARTICLE CITED ABOVE, ALTHOUGH SHARPLY CRITICAL OF RFE, CLEARLY STATES THAT MAIN TARGET OF RFE BROADCASTING IS CZECHOSLOVAKIA; NOT A WORD IS SAID ABOUT RFE'S 17 HOURS OF DAILY PROGRAMMING IN HUNGARIAN.
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